

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 180920Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4089

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2457

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINTIN

SUBJ: MRS. GANDHI SAYS SHE IMPOSED PRESIDENT'S RULE TO  
HEAD OFF PLANNED VIOLENCE BY DMK

FOLLOWING TEL MADRAS 333 DTD 17 FEB 76 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRAS 0333

EO 11652: XGDS4

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: MRS GANDHI SAYS SHE IMPOSED PRESIDENT'S RULE TO  
HEAD OFF PLANNED VIOLENCE BY DMK

1. MRS GANDHI UTILIZED HER MAJOR ADDRESS IN MADRAS  
(HER 75-MINUTE SPEECH AT THE FEBRUARY 15 RALLY ON THE  
MARINA ORGANIZED BY THE CONGRESS PARTY TO MARK THE  
REUNION OF THE TWO CONGRESS PARTIES IN THE STATE) TO  
EXCORIATE THE DMK AND TO JUSTIFY HER IMPOSITION OF  
PRESIDENT'S RULE IN TAMIL NADU. THE MAJOR REASON  
FOR HER ACTION, SHE SAID, WAS THAT "WE HAD NEWS THAT  
THEY WERE PLANNING ALL KINDS OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND  
AGITATIONS FROM THE FIRST OF FEBRUARY, THE THIRD, THE  
FIFTH, AND SO ON. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HAD THEY  
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BEEN ALLOWED TO GO THROKLN THIS PROGRAM, THERE WOULD

HAVE BEEN VIOLENCE AND THEY COULD HAVE PRETENDED TO BE MARTYRS. I BELIEVE IN GETTING IN THE WAY TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AND TO HAVE THE LEAST POSSIBLE DISRUPTION AND DISTURBANCE." IN ADDITION, SHE SAID, SHE COULD NOT SAY HERSELF SINCE SHE DID NOT KNOW TAMIL, BUT ACCORDING TO ALL THE REPORTS THEY GOT, "WHILE ONE OR TWO TOP PEOPLE MAY NOT BE ASKING FOR SEPARATION, THERE ARE OTHER MEMBERS WHO WERE SPEAKING ABOUT IT AND MAKING UNDISGUISED OPEN THREATS TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY." MES GANDHI ALSO CHARGED THE DMK GOVERNMENT WITH CORRUPTION AND WITH MALADMINISTRATION BY INFILTRATING ITS OWN PARTY MEMBERS INTO EVERY LEVEL OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND PUTTING DOWN EFFICIENT OFFICIALS.

2. WE HAVE REPORTED EARLIER (MADRAS 0235 OF FEB 6) THAT WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE CHARGE THAT THE DMK WAS PALMING OR ENCOURAGING ANY VIOLENT ACTIVITY. WHEN POLITICAL COUNSELOR KREISBERG AND I CALLED ON CHIEF SECRETARY SABANAYAGAM FEBRUARY 16 AND ASKED HIM ABOUT THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHARGE, SABANAYAGAM REPLIED CATEGORICALLY THAT NO VIOLENCE WAS ANTICIPATED IN CONNECTION WITH ANY ACTIVITIES THAT THE DMK MIGHT HAVE HAD PLANNED IN FEBRUARY. SABANAYAGAM THOUGHT ALSO THAT THE CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AND MALADMINISTRATION WERE CONSIDERABLY OVERDRAWN, AND THAT THE DMK GOVERNMENT DID NOT PARTICULARLY WARRANT SPECIAL MENTION ON THOSE ACCOUNTS, IN COMPARISON WITH GOVERNMENTS ELSEWHERE IN INDIA. WHEN I CALLED LATER FEBRUARY 16 ON GOI ADVISER P.K.DWIZ AND ASKED HIM WHAT HIS JAMOR AIM WAS, HE SAID IT WOULD BE TO RESTORE THE INTEGRITY OF ADMINISTRATION IN THE STATE. HE CONCEDED THAT WHATEVER CORRUPTION AND MALADMINISTRATION THERE HAD BEEN HAD BEEN LARGELY AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL BUT SAID THAT THE MALAISE HAD CREPT IN TO SOME EXTENT AT THE LOWEST LEVELS OF THE ADMINISTRATION. BUT HE STRESSED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD TAKE LONG TO RESTORE ADMINISTRATIVE TONE BECAUSE, HE SAID, THE TAMIL NADU ADMINISTRATION WAS OF AN EXTREMELY HIGH CALIBRE, "ONE OF THE VERY BEST IN INDIA," AND HE HAD BEEN "VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPRESSED WITH THE PEOPLE LOOKING IN IT."

3. WE ALSO ASKED SABANAYAGAM ABOUT THE PRIME MINISTER'S ALLEGATION OF DMK SEPARATIST THREATS. HE THOUGHT THESE WERE BASED ON THE JANUARY 22-24 DK RPT DK CONFERENCE AT THANJAVUR WHERE THERE WERE SOME SPEECHES BY DMK MEMBERS ADVOCATING SECESSION (SEE MADRAS 253). SABANAYAGAM SAID THAT, ON THE BASIS OF REPORTS RECEIVED

ON THESE SPEECHES, "WE ADVISED THE CHIEF MINISTER NOT  
TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE." HE IMPLIED THAT THE  
APPEARANCE OF TWO DMK MINISTERS AT A CONFERENCE AT  
WHICH SUCH SENTIMENTS WERE ARTICULATED HAD PLWDED INTO  
THE PRIME MINISTER'S HANDS.

4. DESPITE ALL THE INDICATIONS TO THE CONTRARY, MRS  
GANDHI IS NOW APPARENTLY ABLE, WITHOUT GULPING, TO MAKE  
THE ACCUSATION OF PLANNED GIOLENCE THE MAJOR  
JUSTIFICATION OF HER MOVE AGAINST THEM  
BK GOVERNMENT.  
EAVES UNQUOTE  
SAXBE

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## Message Attributes

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